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DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

Agenda item 6



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BUDGET INCREASE TO DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BURKINA FASO 3326.01

Rural development

	Original budget (dollars)	Increase (dollars)	Revised budget (dollars)
Food cost	18 849 400	2 358 600	21 208 000
Total cost to WFP	24 390 470	5 099 753 ¹	29 490 223

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

¹ Includes 13.9 percent of direct costs under the heading of indirect support costs.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document contains recommendations for review and approval by the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

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NATURE OF THE INCREASE

1. A 12-month extension (January–December 1999) is recommended. It requires a supplementary commitment of 8,900 tons of food aid, including: 5,900 tons of soya-enriched maize flour, 900 of rice, 900 of locally produced millet/sorghum, 300 of vegetable oil and 900 of pulses.
2. Given the difficulties encountered during the present phase in monetizing vegetable oil in Burkina Faso, WFP will need to mobilize cash contributions totalling 622,200 dollars in order to:
 - a) locally purchase 900 tons of millet/sorghum destined for cereal banks (estimated value—250,200 dollars);
 - b) pay for internal transport, storage and handling (ITSH) costs (estimated total value—356,000 dollars, i.e., 40 dollars a ton from extended delivery points to distribution sites); and
 - c) reinforce the project's monitoring and evaluation system (16,000 dollars).

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EXPANSION AND BUDGET INCREASE

Summary of project activities

3. Activities under project Burkina Faso 3326.01 began in January 1994 for a duration of five years, up to December 1998. Under the project, some 250,000 inhabitants of the country's 45 provinces have benefited from WFP food aid on a food-for-work basis. The project includes four sub-projects implemented by different institutions. Coordination is ensured by the Permanent Secretariat for WFP Aid (SPAP), which comes under the Ministry of Agriculture.
 - a) The natural resources development sub-project accounts for 60 percent of the commitment and its activities include water and soil conservation, forestry, improvement of water resources and new lands settlement. It is being executed by the provincial technical service and reaches 150,000 beneficiaries.
 - b) This sub-project is intended to increase village food security (13 percent of commitment) and aims to provide 300 newly-constructed cereal banks with a start-up stock of 15 tons each. It is being executed by the Water and Rural Equipment Fund and covers 40,000 beneficiaries.
 - c) This rural training sub-project (10 percent of commitment) aims to improve villagers' know-how in agriculture, natural resources management and agricultural economy. It is being executed by the National Literacy Institute and covers 25,000 beneficiaries.
 - d) The last-sub project is on rural infrastructure development (17 percent of resources). It includes a road works component intended to improve communications between villages and a rural equipment component aimed at improving basic social and economic infrastructure. It is being executed by the provincial technical service and reaches 35,000 beneficiaries.



Conclusions and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation mission

4. A mid-term evaluation mission reviewed activities under project Burkina Faso 3326.01 in June 1997. The mission's conclusions confirmed the validity of the project as formulated while, however, noting some weaknesses.
5. The mission concluded that food aid provided by WFP under the project generally did play a vital catalyzing role in the project's activities. The specific form taken by the aid—a communal mid-day meal—enabled it to foster and build up social cohesion.
6. In order to improve the project's effectiveness, however, the mission made a number of recommendations, including simplification of the decision-making process, greater coherence around newly-defined priority intervention areas, and the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation system based on giving greater responsibility to those directly involved. The mission also suggested ways of improving management of the various components, as well as the definition of priority intervention areas in order to ensure that WFP aid reached the places where it was most needed. It was further recommended that priority be given to provinces facing the worst water deficits (north and central-north) as well as the so-called "precarious food balance" provinces (north, central-north, central-south and south-east).

Purpose of the expansion and budget increase

7. A Country Strategy Outline (CSO) for Burkina Faso will be presented to the Executive Board in May 1998; it will be followed by a Country Programme to be submitted to the Board in May 1999, with a view to programme execution commencing in January 2000. Pending initiation of the Country Programme, and in order not to interrupt WFP's support to the rural development sector in Burkina Faso, an expansion of the project is being proposed, together with a supplementary commitment intended to reorient the project's activities immediately along the lines recommended by the evaluation mission. The expansion will enable WFP to refocus the project's activities on the 25 highest-deficit provinces, and to monitor progress made following implementation of the mission's recommendations, pending the formulation of a new rural development support project under the Country Programme.
8. Activities will be tailored to the specific problems of the areas selected and will centre on the protection/rehabilitation/improvement of natural resources, the reinforcement of village food security, the improvement of agricultural skills, of road communications and of socio-economic infrastructure. Groups targeted by the project are village members in the provinces selected who will participate in the works on a voluntary basis, and public works employees taking part in the road works. Despite the project's re-targeting to 25 provinces, the total number of beneficiaries will remain unchanged at 250,000. This will enable project Burkina Faso 3326.01 to have a greater impact in the targeted areas and avoid WFP aid being "spread thinly" over the entire country, a defect noted by the mid-term evaluation mission.
9. In order to evaluate the impact of activities on beneficiaries, WFP will improve its own project management structure. Two United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) will be recruited to supervise the north/central-north and Southeast/Central-south zones, respectively. They will be based in-country and financed by a single donor. The decentralization of the Permanent Secretariat for WFP aid should also help achieve this objective.



FOOD REQUIREMENTS

10. The total quantities of food required are given in paragraph 1.
11. Daily family rations (equivalent to five individual rations) distributed to participants in rural development activities will consist of 1,500 grams of rice or maize flour, 75 of vegetable oil, 75 of vegetable oil and 200 of beans. They will partly be eaten on the spot (during a communal lunch break), while the remainder will be taken home in the form of dry rations.
12. Participants in training courses will be given an individual ration of 300 grams of maize flour and 15 of vegetable oil. This will be consumed on the spot as a cooked meal.
13. Sixty newly-built cereal banks will each receive a start-up stock of 15 tons of millet/sorghum.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

14. The proposed 12-month expansion as well as the extra commitment involved in food and cash are recommended to the Executive Board for approval.

